Amendment to the Claims:

This Listing of the Claims Replaces all prior Versions and Listings of the Claims in the Application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A fastening system for fastening an object on an article comprising:

a) an object including a securement structure operable for mounting the object on an article, the securement structure including a bearing surface, wherein the securement structure is formed from a material having a first creep rate;

b) a mounting structure operable to be fastened with respect to the securement structure, the mounting structure including a bearing surface, wherein the mounting structure is formed from a material having a second creep rate, wherein the second creep rate is less than the first creep rate; and

c) a bearing member including a first portion for bearing against the bearing surface of the securement structure and a second portion for bearing against the bearing surface of the mounting structure, wherein the bearing member ~~may~~ is operable to be biased by a fastener such that the bearing surfaces of the securement structure and the mounting structure receive compressive force from the respective first and second portions of the bearing member.

Claim 2. (Original) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the object is included as an element for a vehicle.

Claim 3. (Original) The fastening system of claim 2, wherein the element comprises a vehicle bed element.

Claim 4. (Original) The fastening system of claim 2, wherein the object is an integral part of the element.

Claim 5. (Original) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the mounting structure comprises a cross brace fastened with respect to a surface of the securement structure.

Claim 6. (Original) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein a surface of the second portion of the bearing member is offset from a surface of the first portion of the bearing member.

Claim 7. (Original) The fastening system of claim 6, wherein the surface of the first portion of the bearing member comprises a first planar surface and wherein the surface of the second portion of the bearing member comprises a second planar surface.

Claim 8. (Original) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the first portion of the bearing member includes a resilient washer.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the securement structure is provided with an aperture having a diameter and the mounting structure is provided with an aperture that has a smaller diameter than the diameter of the securement structure aperture, the bearing surface of the securement structure circumscribes the securement structure aperture and the bearing surface of the mounting structure circumscribes the mounting structure aperture, the first portion of the bearing member has a diameter that is larger than the diameter of the securement structure aperture and the second portion of the bearing member has a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the securement structure aperture and larger than the diameter of the mounting structure aperture.

Claim 10. (Original) The fastening system of claim 9, wherein the mounting structure aperture is concentrically aligned with the securement structure aperture.

Claim 11. (Original) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the mounting structure includes a cross sectional portion with a general C-shaped cross section, and the securement structure includes a countersunk portion that extends down into a cavity defined by the cross sectional portion.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) A vehicle bed adapted for mounting on a fastening location of a vehicle, the vehicle bed comprising:

a) a vehicle bed element including a securement structure provided with an aperture having a diameter and including a bearing surface circumscribing the aperture, the securement structure operable for mounting the vehicle bed element on a vehicle, wherein the securement structure is formed from a material having a first creep rate;

b) a mounting structure operable to be fastened with respect to the securement structure, the mounting structure provided with an aperture that has a smaller diameter than the diameter of the securement structure aperture, the mounting structure including a bearing surface circumscribing the mounting structure aperture, wherein the mounting structure is formed from a material having a second creep rate, and the second creep rate is less than the first creep rate; and

c) a bearing member including a first portion with a first surface for bearing against the bearing surface of the securement structure, the first portion including a diameter that is larger than the diameter of the securement structure aperture, the bearing member further including a second portion with a second surface that is offset from the first surface for bearing against the bearing surface of the mounting structure, the second portion including a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the securement structure aperture and larger than the diameter of the mounting structure aperture, wherein the bearing member ~~may~~ is operable to be biased by a fastener such that the bearing surfaces of the securement structure and the mounting structure receive compressive force from the respective first and second surfaces of the bearing member.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) The vehicle bed ~~element~~ of claim 12, wherein the mounting structure comprises a cross brace fastened with respect to a surface of the securement structure.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) The vehicle bed ~~element~~ of claim 12, wherein the first surface of the bearing member comprises a first planar surface and wherein the second surface of the bearing member comprises a second planar surface.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The vehicle bed ~~element~~ of claim 12, wherein the first portion of the bearing member includes a resilient washer.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The vehicle bed ~~element~~ of claim 12, wherein the mounting structure includes a cross sectional portion with a general C-shaped cross section, and the securement structure includes a countersunk portion that extends down into a cavity defined by the cross sectional portion.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The fastening system of claim 1, wherein the bearing member is biased with a fastener and the object is fastened with respect to the article.